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May 14, 1953

Rear Admiral H. Lamont Pugh
Surgeon General
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Admiral Pugh:

With reference to the Navy personnel which you so kindly made available to us for the conduct of the biomedical experiments at the Nevada Proving Grounds during the present series, I am very pleased to be able to inform you that despite the shifts of schedule which have involved a greater expenditure of time by the scientific personnel than we had originally anticipated, the program under Commander Cronkite and his staff has gone exceedingly well. I feel that the data being obtained, when taken in conjunction with that obtained at Greenhouse, will go far toward answering many of the difficult and perplexing questions which confront us not only with respect to military operations during war time but even more with respect to the manifold employment of nuclear energy in times of peace.

The tasks assigned to this scientific group have been intricate and most difficult. Delicate physical and animal experiments have been conducted under conditions of dust and storm that at times have been appalling. Despite these obstacles which are inevitable in a program of this sort, every experiment has been concluded in an extremely satisfactory manner, and the scientific quality of the data obtained has not been allowed to deteriorate because of the requirements of the field operations. Certain experiments yet remain to be performed on the concluding shots of the series, and there will follow a period of analysis of data and the writing of the final reports which Commander Cronkite intends to be done by himself and his staff while they are engaged in their normal duties.

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Admiral Pugh

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It seems clear to us that the efficient and scientifically effective operations that have been conducted result from the accumulated experience as well as the extended scientific training of this small group of Navy personnel which now has more consistent knowledge of the conduct of such field experiments than any other unit. It would seem to me that great benefit to our program would result if the feasibility of re-assembling this scientific team from time to time were to be maintained. It is to be anticipated that there will be further series of continental tests and that additional biomedical experimentation will be required.

Again let me express my appreciation of the splendid work this group of Navy personnel has performed.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Bugher, M.D.
Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

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